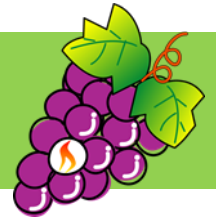




LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 28th May 2023



Matthew 3:1-12

John The Baptist: The Best Man

Warm Up

What comes to mind when you think about the Kingdom of Heaven?

Background and context

John the Baptist was a relative of Jesus and the forerunner to Jesus, preparing the way for Him. He proclaimed the good news of the imminent arrival of God's Kingdom. He was the fulfilment of scripture (Isaiah40:3) and drew on scripture (Daniel2) to remind the people that God had promised an eternal kingdom that would overcome all others. He also warned them not to assume they would be part of it.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

Read Matthew 3:1-12 *What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.*

1. Why is the arrival of God's Kingdom "good news"? What will it mean for the world?
2. Read Daniel 2: 1-3 and Daniel 2: 31-45. How is this relevant to John the Baptist's preaching?
3. For whom is the arrival of God's kingdom "bad news"?
4. The Jewish religious leaders thought they were already part of God's kingdom. How does John show they are not?
5. What warnings does John give to encourage repentance?
6. What do these warnings teach us about Jesus?
7. How does John link Daniel 2:35 with Jesus and the arrival of God's kingdom?
8. What is the only thing that will guarantee our citizenship of the new Kingdom of Heaven?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

9. John told the Pharisees to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. What does this mean?
10. What is the evidence in a person's life that they are a citizen of Heaven?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.